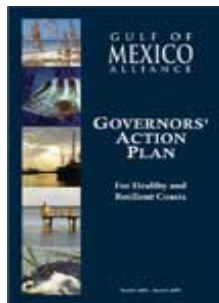
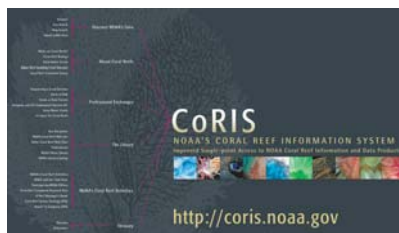


NOS Special Projects Highlights: August 2007

Project of the Month

Coastal Zone 2007

The biennial Coastal Zone conference held July 22-26, now in its 15th edition, is the largest international gathering of ocean and coastal management professionals in the world. Nearly 1,000 people attended, representing federal, state, and local governments, academia, nonprofit organizations, and private industry. The conference gave attendees a platform to discuss the issues facing our world's coasts and oceans and a forum for discovering new strategies and solutions. Members of Special projects presented posters, led break out groups, and presented search on various topics. <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/>



NOS

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Biannual Report to Congress

In response to a request from the Corals Program, Special Projects conducted a copy edit of the program's biannual report to Congress highlighting U.S. Coral Reef Task Force accomplishments from 2004 to 2006. A component of the edit was ensuring the text complied with NOAA style requirements. Special Projects finished the edit of the 100+ page report within five business days. (Emily Crum)

Second Annual Gulf of Mexico Alliance Environmental Education Network (EEN) Workshop

On June 18-20, Special Projects supported the Coastal Services Center (CSC) in helping to host the second annual EEN workshop at the Five Rivers Delta Center in Spanish Fort, AL. The workshop, which also served as a joint meeting with the Gulf Coastal Ocean Observing System Education and Outreach Committee, was attended by approximately 60 representatives from all five Gulf States and a variety of federal and local organizations, as well as formal educators. Workshop outcomes included increasing Gulf-wide collaboration and communication through information sharing; beginning the development of a Gulf-wide public awareness campaign; and reviewing strategies for reaching under-served and under-represented audiences. NOAA and the Environmental Protection Agency have been providing on-going support to the EEN, which is one component identified by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance needed to build a healthier Gulf of Mexico ecosystem and economy. (Alison Hammer)

Second Annual Gulf of Mexico Alliance All-Hands Workshop

Special Projects supported CSC in helping to host the second annual Gulf of Mexico Alliance "all-hands" workshop on July 10-12, in St. Petersburg, FL, with over 230 participants. At the workshop, the Alliance Management Team presented their vision for the future of the Alliance. The five Alliance Priority Issue Teams, which are state-led teams working to tackle the priority issues discussed in the *Governors' Action Plan*, identified actions in the *Plan* that still need work and developed plans for completing these remaining activities by March 2009. Concurrent technical workshops to address Alliance priority issues were held on nutrients criteria development, Gulf-wide water-quality monitoring standardization, habitat-identification techniques, habitat-restoration techniques, and regional sediment management. (Brent Ache)

Ocean and Coastal Mapping (OCM) Workshop Planning Meeting

The Office of Coast Survey, who co-chairs the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping, asked Special Projects to represent NOAA on an interagency technical team to define a process to coordinate federal and federally supported mapping activities for the U.S. coastal and marine environment. This technical team met in Woods Hole, MA, to develop a final agenda for an upcoming OCM technical workshop that NOAA is hosting in Charleston, SC, on September 11-13. This workshop will bring together technical experts in OCM data and activities, to define user and system requirements for federal partners to conduct an annual

inventory of OCM data. Conducting such an inventory is considered a critical success factor for implementing the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. (Robby Wilson)

NOAA

NOAA's Incident Coordination Center (ICC) Training for ICC Senior Management Continuity of Operations Team

On July 31 – August 2, Special Projects providing training to the ICC Senior Management COOP team on the use and operation of the ICC Web-mapping site. This site provides maps to NOAA assets and staff alongside ongoing natural or man-made events that may impact NOAA's mission. Documentation on system access, operation, and maintenance was relayed to technical staff for use in a COOP situation for tracking NOAA staff and assets. Following initial training, Senior Management COOP staff successfully used the site on August 2 during training exercises. (Robb Wright)

Ocean Today Kiosk (formerly the "Ocean News Kiosk")

Alongside representatives from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, Special Projects staff reviewed design options for the Ocean Today Kiosk, including screens for the main menu, a second-level topic, and an individual story. The Special Projects kiosk team will incorporate this look and feel into the development of the kiosk prototype, which will serve as a test-bed for presenting and updating content on the kiosk. The kiosk ultimately provide a highly dynamic and visitor-friendly multi-media experience designed to enhance ocean literacy for visitors to museums and aquariums around the country. In the coming weeks, the prototype is planned for installation at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore, MD, and Nauticus in Norfolk, VA. Smithsonian evaluators will also help test the prototype with Natural History Museum visitors. Special Projects staff will set up a prototype on the 9th floor of SSMC 4 to instantly view how changes and updates appear on the kiosk. Prototype evaluation includes technical (how the kiosk software works and how stories are updated) and user (how visitors interact with the kiosk) components. (Mike Shelby)

Live Video Feed from the Black Sea Mission

Special Projects staff funded through NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research launched the online component of the Black Sea mission on the Ocean Explorer Web site. The focus of this mission is the application of telepresence technology, which allows scientists and the public to observe missions of discovery in real time. An important test of this new paradigm of exploration is underway in the Aegean and Black Seas. For this mission, a live video feed is available, allowing people around the world to watch the work of this mission 24 hours a day. The feed includes a descriptive caption, updated from the mission's control room, which explains what viewers are watching. This live feed will be online the length of the expedition, until the end of August. Watch the live video feed and learn more about telepresence and the future of ocean exploration at:
<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/07blacksea/welcome.html>. (Joe Flood)

Summary of Current Projects by Client: FY07 (as of August 20)

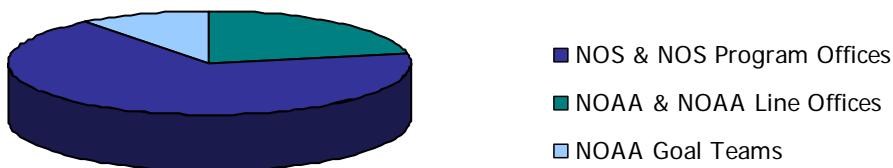


Chart represents cumulative numbers of active, proposed, and completed projects for fiscal year 2007.

	Active	Proposed	Completed
<i>TOTAL Projects</i>	121	11	46

*The level of effort estimates will fluctuate as new projects are added and existing projects are completed.

**There is an additional level of effort that goes into SP-specific projects (e.g., administrative).

Questions? Call Tom Culliton (301) 713-3000 x142